

CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

25X1

TOPIC Military Information from Brandenburg

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 26 May to 11 June 1953

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 8 July 1953

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REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 5 June 1953, the Flak Kaserne and the Infanterie Kaserne were occupied only by small rear details. No activities other than physical training and guard duty were observed. Soviet officers stated that the units from the installations transferred to the Altengrabow troop training grounds and that they would return to their installations by mid-September.

2. Prior to 5 June, two different types of heavy two-load howitzers in the Generalfeldzeugmeister Kaserne, Brandenburg, which repeatedly left the installation toward Bohnenland during the period under review. The unit usually stayed at the training area for 2 or 3 days.

At about 10 p.m., trucks almost daily were seen leaving the installation for driving school practices, returning between 4 a.m. and 5 a.m. on the following day.

3. Prior to 2 June, the Generalfeldzeugmeister Kaserne was occupied as previously. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Elements of the unit were continually rotated to the Bohnenland training area, repeatedly remaining there for several days and nights. Between 26 May and 2 June, two types of howitzers were observed in the installation. On 4 June, 15 prime movers towing 6 gun barrel trailers, 6 gun mount carriages and 6 trailers, each occupied by 20 soldiers, were seen entering the installation, escorted by jeep occupied by 2 officers, and sedan occupied by 2 officers. At 3:45 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on 5 June, an undetermined number of two-load guns left the installation toward Bohnenland. In the morning of 3 June, about 80 troops with signal equipment left the installation for an exercise and returned at about 5:30 p.m. About 80 troops received individual training and training in firing in the barracks yard. On 10 June, driving school trucks each occupied by 10 soldiers, left the installation. They returned at about 3:30 p.m. At about 9:45 a.m., 6 prime movers towing 2 gun mount carriages, 2 gun barrel trailers and trailers left the installation

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toward Pohnenland. [redacted]

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[redacted] Motor vehicles seen en route to and from the installation.

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4. On 2 June, the Flak Kaserne and the Infanterie Kaserne were vacant. The troops were at the training grounds. Jeep [redacted] entered the Flak Kaserne. 25X1

5. On 12 June, about 75 percent of the Generalfeldzeugmeister Kaserne were occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport, signal and artillery insignia. Between 5 and 12 June, intensive training activity was observed outside the installation. Communication details repeatedly left the installation for construction practices or telephone training. At about 8:45 a.m. on 10 June, 2 prime movers towing gun barrel trailers of 203-mm caliber, 2 prime movers towing gun mount carriages and 1 prime mover towing a trailer occupied by about 30 soldiers were seen leaving the installation toward Magdeburg. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] On 12 June, prime movers [redacted] were seen leaving the installation. On 12 June, the Infanterie Kaserne was occupied by a guard detail of about 80 to 100 troops. Source did not observe any training or vehicular traffic. 25X1

6. On 12 June, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by about 150 troops. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The installation was quiet; no activities or vehicular traffic were observed.
7. On 2 June, the Pionier Kaserne was occupied by a guard detail of about 200 to 400 troops. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. No training and only little vehicular traffic were observed between 23 May and 2 June. 25X1

8. On 9 June, the Generalfeldzeugmeister Kaserne was occupied to capacity. All barracks buildings were fully lighted after nightfall. Between 30 May and 9 June, driving practices were daily observed in the barracks yard. They involved 2 x 203-mm howitzers on 30 May and prime movers [redacted] on several days. On 31 May, a column of about 440 troops preceded by a military band returned to the installation. 25X1

9. On 9 June, the Infanterie Kaserne and the Flak Kaserne were vacant..
10. At about 11 a.m. on 5 June, sedan [redacted] occupied by a major and a senior lieutenant, was seen at the ramp of the Brandenburg-Altstadt railroad station. The officers talked to a sentry guarded a van and left toward the town. The sedan was new, light-brown and similar to American-made cars. [redacted] a similar sedan [redacted] in the town. 25X1

11. On 4 June, prime movers [redacted] towing guns of about 28-mm caliber were seen en route, coming from the direction of the Generalfeldzeugmeister Kaserne and proceeding toward Goerden. The prime movers were of similar type as those built by the Ifa-Brandenburg firm. 25X1

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Comment. The information indicates no change in the occupation of the barracks installations mentioned prior to early June over the preceding report [redacted] in late May. [redacted] Source of paragraph 1 already previously mentioned a second two-load gun type in the Generalfeldzeugmeister Kaserne, in addition to the 203-mm howitzers. According to T/E, the 124th Hv How Arty Brig (US) has been believed equipped only with the latter type of gun. According to the information in this report, the unidentified two-load guns could only be 280-mm howitzers, the presence of which in Brandenburg cannot be confirmed by the vague indications available.

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